(c) whether it is also a fact that in retaliation the Pakistan Government also expelled one Indian diplomat and one Indian official after giving them much physical and mental torture against the code of conduct for diplomatic personnel agreed upon by the two sides in August 1992;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what action Government have so far taken or propose to take in future to avoid recurrence of incidents of torture inflicted by Pakistan Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d) On July 12, 1994 Government requested the Government of Pakistan to wtihdraw from India a staff member of the Pak High Commission, Mohammad Afzal Bajwa who was apprehended for espionage activities. On July 11, 1994, soon after his apprehension, he was handed over to officials of the Pakistan High Commission, New Delhi, in good physical condition. Government also sought the withdrawal of First Secretary Nasir Uddin Ahmed in the Pak High Commission as his conduct was found to be incompatible with his status as an accredited diplomat in India.

Regrettably, Pakistani authorities, during the night of July 11, 1994 abducted an Attache in the Indian High Commission in Islamabad, Shri V. S. Chauhan from outside his residence. He was forcibly detained and subjected to sustained third-degree interrogation lasting for more than six hours. Pakistan subsequently requested that Shri Chauhan and a staff member in the Indian Consulate General in Karachi, Shri B. A. Adams, be withdrawn from Pakistan.

(e) Government proposed on April 7, 1994 to the Government of Pakistan that consultations between the two Foreign Offices may be held for a review of the implementation of the Code of Conduct. This proposal has not yet found favour with Islamabad. Meanwhile, discussions were recently held in New Delhi and in Islamabad between officials of the concerned Mission and Ministry to discuss the range of issues involved. Several suggestions were made on ways and means of improving implementation of the Code of Conduct in letter and spirit. Both sides also agreed to hold further discussions on this subject.

Commission on sustainable development

1110. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a commission on sustainable development has been set up as a follow-up of the Earth Summit held at Rio in June, 1992;

(b) if so, the objectives, functions and composition of the above Commission;

(c) the progress made so far in this regard; and

(d) the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir. The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was established in February 1993 as a functional Commission of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

(b) The objective of the CSD is to ensure evective follow up of the Earth Summit, as well as to enhance international cooperation in order to achieve sustainable development in all countries. Its functions relate broadly to monitoring the progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 activities, related to the integration of environmental and developmental goals; to consider information provided by governments and to review progress regarding implementation and committments contained in Agenda 21 including those related to the provision of fiancial resources and transfer of technologies; and to make recommendations thereon. The Commission is composed of 53 States elected for three-year terms.

(c) Two substantive sessions of the CSD were held in June 1993 and May 1994 with High Level Segments. The sessions reviewed and made recommenations on crucial issues of financial resources and mechanisms, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and thematic clusters relating to health, human settlements, fresh water, toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes. Valuable inputs were provided by the Inter-Sessional Working Groups on Finance and Technology. The need for a high political profile of the CSD to act as an effective catalyst for sustainable development was underscored. Actions to be taken nationally and internationally to translate the commitments made at Rio into reality were stressed. Fostering of multilateral negotiations for promoting action in area of changing corsumption and production patterns and measures to make trade and environment mutually supportive, were suggested. The second session of CSD established a Working Group on Land, Forests and Biodiversity, which will be reviewed by it during its third session in 1995.

(d) India is an active member of the Commission on Sustainable Development. India is also a mamber of both Inter-Sessional Working Groups. Government of India is taking steps for implementation of Agenda 21, and has consistently emphasised the need for all countries to fulfil the commitments undertaken at Rio, including those related to provision of financial resources. An International Workshop of Forestry was held in New Delhi from July 25-27, 1994 to prepare for the third session of Commission on Sustainable Development.

Compensation claimed by India from Pakistan for inhuman treatment to diplomats

1111. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Government has sought any compensation from Pakistan, for torture, intimidation and inhuman treatment meted out to Indian diplomats in that country under the Vienna Convention; if so what is the reaction of Pakistan Government thereto; if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) what follow-up action has been taken by Government to see that the Indian diplomats in Pakistan are no longer accorded brutal treatment and Pakistan does not disregard the international norms of diplomatic conduct; and

(c) whether any discussion had been held with Pakistan Government to ensure strict implementation of the bilateral code of conduct signed in August, 1992 and if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) Government have lodged strong protests with the Government of Pakistan over the numerous incidents of aggressive surveillance and harassment, including torture, intimidation and inhuman treatment meted out to the India officials posted in Islamabad and Karachi. These are grossly violative of the internationally accepted norms of diplomatic behaviour as well as of the mutual commitments and obligations under the bilateral Code of Conduct. Government have conveyed to the Government of Pakistan on various occasions its deep regret and disappointment over this mater.

Government proposed on April 7, 1994 to the Government of Pakistan that consultations between the two Foreign Offices may be held for a review of the implementation of the Code of Conduct. This proposal has not yet found favour with Islamabad. Meanwhile, discussions were recently held in New Delhi and in Islamabad between officials of the concerned Mission and Ministry to discuss the range of issues involved. Several suggestions were made on ways and means of improving implementation of the Code of Conduct in letter and spirit. Both sides also agreed to hold further discussions on this subject.